

**Maine EMS Examination Committee Meeting
Tuesday, November 18, 2003
Maine EMS Conference Room, Augusta**

Minutes

Present: J. Vaniotis – Chair, G. Utgard, K. Roderick, D. Gilman, T. Coleman, J. LeBrun, B. Hawkes

Absent: R. Doughty, T. Norsworthy

Staff: D. White

1. Call To Order - The meeting was called to order at 9:36 a.m.

A. Assign Timekeeper – G. Utgard

B. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda – None

2. Minutes – September 16, 2003, meeting minutes - review for acceptance

The minutes of the September 16, 2003, meeting were reviewed

Motion: To accept the minutes of the September 16, 2003 meeting. (Gilman; Coleman - motion carries).

3. Old Business

A. NREMT Visit in October – Follow-up discussion

The committee discussed National Registry of EMT (NREMT) Director Bill Brown's presentation at Maine EMS on October 21, 2003.

Mr. Brown discussed the history and philosophy of NREMT, test construction and pass/fail rates during his presentation.

He indicated that NREMT is looking at going to Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT) in the future and outlined the work done to date on that project

Overall, committee members felt that their questions had been answered about test construction, although committee members still had questions about the proportionality of exams (question % in relation to curriculum) and the ability to relate NREMT test results to education.

Concerns were also expressed about increased costs that could come as a result of CAT. Discussion continued about the pursuing the possibility of using the NREMT Paramedic exam in Maine. Currently, Southern Maine Community College (SMCC) makes the NREMT Paramedic exam available to its students, and Maine EMS accepts the NREMT Paramedic exam in lieu of the current Maine licensing exam at the Paramedic level.

There was general agreement that the current Paramedic exam needs to be addressed. The exam was written in 1990, with changes made along the years to keep up to date with changes in protocol, rules and scope of practice. Concern about the current Maine exam includes its legal defensibility if challenged and the need to ensure its alignment with the current version of the national Standard Curriculum for Paramedic.

Consensus was that replacement of the current Maine Paramedic Exam should be addressed by the committee and that the Chair, in her letter to the Board, ask if the Board would like the committee to pursue replacement of the current Paramedic exam and the use of the NREMT exam as the Paramedic exam.

B. SMCC Comparison of Intermediate Exams

The Committee discussed SMCC's comparison of the Maine and NREMT EMT-Intermediate (EMT-I) exams. The committee discussed the differences in the practical component of the exams and ideas for ensuring consistency in the exams.

K. Roderick suggested that since Maine EMS had already approved the NREMT Paramedic exam as an equivalent exam to the Maine test, the same process be used to determine if the NREMT EMT-I exam could be accepted in lieu of the Maine written and practical exam.

C. Examiner Training – No Discussion

D. Student Handbook – No Discussion

4. New Business - None

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2003. Staff will discuss with the Chair regarding the need to hold a December meeting and will notify the committee if the December meeting is cancelled.

A. Set Agenda - Next agenda to include: Feedback from Maine EMS Board

5. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Drexell White